

Serial No. 09/935,513

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action dated June 30, 2005, the Office indicated that claims 4, 5, 10-24, 32-35, and 39 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, the Office finally rejected certain claims under various arguments which are addressed more specifically below.

Applicants submit that claims 12, 13, 15, and 34 have been amended to further define the present invention and claims 1-11, 16-33, 35-44, 60-67, and 81-91 have been canceled in order to expedite prosecution. Support for the amendments to claims 12, 13, 15, and 34 can be found in Appendix A.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

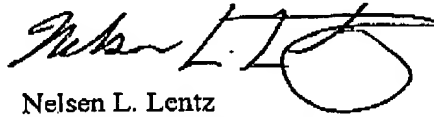
The Office rejected claims 60-67 and 81-91 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admissions in view of Krushinski, Jr. et al. (5,576,321). In addition, the Office rejected claims 1-3, 6-9, 25-31, 36-38, and 40-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayer et al. (WO 96/07412) in view of Nicholas et al.

Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Office's assessment of claims 1-3, 6-9, 25-31, 36-38, 40-44, 60-67, and 81-91 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), however, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled the claims so as to obviate the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as recited directly above. Applicants further submit that the filing of these amendments is not an admission or acquiescence by, nor shall act as an estoppel upon, the Applicants on the merits of the rejection.

Serial No. 09/935,513

In view of the above arguments and amendments, Applicants submit that claims 12-15 and 34 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested and allowance of claims 12-15 and 34 is kindly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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